

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 IO-13 AID-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 PM-04 /079 W

-----101232Z 123548 /23 10

R 101000Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9444

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0365

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR, PINS, BC, RH

SUBJECT THREE RHODESIAN NEWSMEN SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS EACH

REF GABORONE 354

1. THREE STAFF MEMBERS OF RHODESIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (RBC), WHO WERE DETAINED UPON ENTERING BOTSWANA TO COVER THE STORY OF THE 384 C RHODESIAN SCHOLCHILDREN (REFTEL()) HAVE EACH BEEN SENTENCED IN FRANCISTOWN TO PRISON TERMS OF SIX MONTHS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION. THE MEN ARE RODNEY GALE, AN RBC NEWS EDITOR, DAVID COCKBURN, RBC TELEVISION CAMERAMAN AND BEN NCUBE, AN ANNOUNCER WITH RBC S NDEBELE SERVICE. THEY HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION AN FN RIFLE AND 20 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION WHICH THEY CLAIM RBC S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER HAD GIVEN THEM FOR SELF-PROTECTION EN ROUTE TO BOTSWANA

2. COMMENT: UNDER BOTSWANA LAW, THE SENTENCE FOR SUCH A CRIME IS USUALLY PRISON OR A FINE IN CASES IN WHICH THE ACCUSED

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IS A FIRST OFFENDER OR FOREIGNER. THE MEN WILL NO DOUBT APPEAL AS HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF TWO AMERICANS, CONVICTED IN LATE 1975 OF A SIMILAR OFFENSE, WHO WERE SENTENCED BY THE SAME MAGISTRATE TO PRISON WITH NO OPTION OF A FINE. THE HIGH COURT VIRTUALLY DISMISSED THAT CASE, GIVING THE MEN A TOKEN R5 FINE

NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, ARMS, DETENTION, ARRESTS, STUDENTS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-1232
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 GABORONE 354
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3356942
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THREE RHODESIAN NEWSMEN SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS EACH
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BC, RH, (COCKBURN, DAVID), (GALE, RODNEY), (MCUBE, BEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e5a74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009